



GLENDALE CITY CHURCH

of Seventh-day Adventists



Third Sabbath of Advent
December 13, 2025

WELCOME

We're Glad You're Here



TODAY AT GLENDALE CITY CHURCH

- 9:00AM (*Fellowship Hall*) - Come & enjoy a light breakfast with us at our Courtyard Café!
- 9:30AM (*Fellowship Hall*) - Grace Bible Study class with Rebecca Barceló both in-person and on Zoom.*
(Meeting ID 818-244-7241).
- 9:30AM (*Council Room*) - The Living Project support group meets weekly: "Telling My Story, Listening to Your Story. Living Our Story."
- 11:00AM (*Sanctuary*) - Worship with speaker Uriel Herinirina. The service can be viewed online at:
youtube.com/glendalecitychurch.
- 12:30 PM (*Downstairs Multipurpose Room*) - Open Table Worship is an informal gathering of seekers. All are welcome as we share food, story-telling, and interpersonal connections.

CITY KIDS PROGRAMMING: (12pm Pickup)

- 11:00AM (*Classroom 2*) - City Kids Children's Praise with music!
- 11:15AM (*Classroom 2*) - Tiny Tots (0-4 y.o.) Attend with guardian.
- 11:15AM (*Classroom 1*) - Children's Sabbath School (5-12 y.o.)

PREPARING

If you suddenly and
unexpectedly feel
joy, don't hesitate.
Give in to it.

There are plenty of
lives and whole
towns destroyed or
about to be.

We are not wise, and
not very often kind.
And much can never
be redeemed. Still,
life has some
possibility left.

Perhaps this is its
way of fighting
back...

...that sometimes
something happens
better than all the
riches or power in
the world.

It could be anything,
but very likely you
notice it in the
instant when love
begins. Anyway,
that's often the case.
Anyway, whatever it
is, don't be afraid of
its plenty.

Joy is not made
to be a crumb.

WORSHIP SERVICE

Prelude

**Canonic Variations on
Infant Holy, Infant Lowly**
arr. Raymond H. Haan

Kemp Smeal

Call to Worship

Rebecca Barceló

Beloved, we come seeking a joy deeper than circumstance—joy that does not fade when the light shifts or the path grows dim.

We listen faithfully for the day that all the earth awaits.

God calls to us—like Joseph—guiding us through half-truths, noise, and distraction.

We lift our hearts to the One whose presence steadies us in every season.

From the songs of the delivered to the prayers of those still in exile, Scripture tells of joy rising even in waiting, even in pain.

We remember God's faithfulness and watch for God's promised newness.

For generations, God has planted signs of the kingdom in unexpected places—the birth of a child, the wisdom of the lowly, the faithfulness of a carpenter.

In God's nearness, we find a sheltering freedom, a joy rooted deeper than fear.

Even now, joy breaks into the world, quiet as a seed, steady as dawn, calling us to watch, to work, to hope.

Let us worship the God-with-us, as we listen faithfully for the day that all the earth awaits.

{Lighting of the Advent Candle}

Hymn of Praise

Joy to the World

No. 125

Greeting and Prayers of the Congregation

Debbie Wood-Martinson

Anthem

While By My Sheep
Arr. by Hugo Jüngst

GCC Choir

WORSHIP SERVICE

Litany of Confession and Assurance of Pardon

Tom Chatt

We gather together in this season of Advent:

Anticipating hope, praying for peace, and cultivating a joy not tied to circumstance.

We share this love even as we stand amid commotion, grief, longing, and uncertainty.

(Moment of silence)

God, we confess that we have often anchored our hope in people and things too fragile to bear its weight. We have searched for peace in shallow waters that cannot hold us.

We have mistaken joy for distraction or momentary escape, forgetting the deeper joy that springs from your presence and the future you have promised.

We have loved with limits, boundaries, and conditions —withholding compassion from those who need it most. God, when we lose our way, show us yours.

Teach us to receive your joy and point us toward the kingdom still unfolding before us. Remind us that your love is steadfast and eternal, that we may share it freely and fearlessly.

In a world marked by uncertainty, hear this good news: God's love for us is unwavering. God's promise of a coming kingdom is sure.

The One who calls us is faithful, guiding us toward a future where hope is fulfilled, peace is complete, and joy finds its fullness in God's presence.

Let us live into this gift. Amen.

Anthem

The Holly and the Ivy

GCC Choir

arr. John Rutter

Scripture Reading

Clarissa Shan

Matthew 11:2-11

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, those with a skin disease are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me."

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What, then, did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What, then, did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written, 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.' Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist, yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

WORSHIP SERVICE

Sermon

The Kingdom You Don't See

Uriel Herinirina

Offertory

Of the Father's Love Begotten
Traditional Plainsong

Charles Lane

Hymn of Response

The Advent of Our God

No. 117

Benediction

Uriel Herinirina

Choral Benediction

Peace, Peace

GCC Choir

Postlude

Vom Himmel Hoch
Garth Edmundson

Kemp Smeal



To read more about the Advent season, the symbolism of the candles, and the weekly themes,
visit: bibleproject.com/guides/advent.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

With the **nomination process now complete**, GCC extends sincere gratitude to all committees and ministry teams who have agreed to serve in the coming term. Your time, expertise, and faithful commitment are essential to the life and health of our congregation. Thank you for dedicating yourselves to the ministries that help our community flourish. We are deeply grateful.

“Friendsmas” Potluck with CODA - We’re excited to partner with CODA’s community again for another festive meal on December 20th, immediately after the service, in the Fellowship Hall. This gathering is a wonderful opportunity to share good food, build connections, and celebrate the season together. Bring a favorite vegetarian dish to share if you’re able, or simply come and enjoy!



Noon Concert – December 17: Featuring violinist Nancy Roth and pianist Lorenzo Sánchez. The program includes two masterworks for violin and piano: Prokofiev’s Sonata in D Major, Op. 94bis and Ravel’s Sonate pour violon et piano.



Nancy Roth serves as concertmaster for several Southern California orchestras and has performed widely in the United States, Austria, and Mexico. A former member of the Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra and co-principal violist of the Graz Philharmonic, she holds degrees from CSUN, the Juilliard School, and USC. Pianist Lorenzo Sánchez has appeared across the United States, Mexico, and Europe, premiering new works, recording extensively, and collaborating with international choirs. He holds a Doctorate of Musical Arts from USC.

GLENDALE CITY
CHURCH
CELEBRATES



120 *years*

in Glendale

JAN. 30 | CONTEMPORARY
WORSHIP NIGHT

JAN. 31 | CHURCH SERVICE |
LUNCH + ART + CONCERT



You are invited to the
3rd Annual One House

Christmas Soirée

ON DECEMBER 14, 2025



**6 PM–
11 PM**

Imperial Event Venue
1175 N. Lake Ave,
Pasadena, CA

Register here



@OneHouseSoCal



nbarriga@sccsda.org

Music, Games, Food, Crafts, Prizes and more...



GETTING ACQUAINTED



Anjanette Yvonne Arm

Campus Administrator, Teacher, and Children's Ministry Assistant

Anjanette Yvonne Arm, known by her friends and family as "Anji," has been a dedicated member of Glendale City Church since she was two years old. Anji grew up attending Glendale Adventist Academy until eighth grade, then graduated from Eagle Rock High School in 1991. Driven by a love for art and beauty, she studied photography at Pasadena City College, as well as child development classes at Glendale City College.

In 1991, she married New York musician Steve Arm and the couple welcomed their first child, Allisyn, in 1996. Anji began working with Glendale City Church in 1999, putting her training in child development to use by teaching the toddler's Sabbath School classes. In 2002, Anji and Steve grew their family with their second daughter, Josie. They are a tight-knit bunch with a passion for the arts, and a deep adoration of animals and nature.

An avid adventurer, Anji upholds a remarkable birthday tradition of hiking Mount Whitney, the tallest mountain in the contiguous United States. She has summited 17 times since 2008. Her love for the outdoors led her to start the "Maniac Hiking Club," a group that ran for three years, exploring trails all over SoCal.

Anji is vegan for both her health and for animal rights. She loves learning about nutrition, with some of her favorite books on the subject including *Your Body in Balance*, *Prevent and Reverse Heart Disease*, *Fiber Fueled*, *The China Study*, and *How Not To Die*. She is a generous spirit, writing her name on each book in her extensive home library because of how frequently she lends them out to friends and family. Her compassion extends to animals in need; she often makes time in her jam-packed schedule to foster litters of kittens.

Along with conducting children's ministry classes for 26 years, Anji has assumed more responsibilities in the last two and a half years, now holding the title of Campus Administrator. She keeps services running smoothly from the shadows, proofing and printing the bulletin, making flyers for concerts, placing candles for 'day of remembrance', setting up tables for potluck, overseeing repairs, spot cleaning the carpets, getting fire extinguishers inspected, checking the alarm and emergency exit signs, making sure the pianos and organ get tuned, writing the monthly newsletter, running OpenTable and sending the weekly emails, cleaning up after each service, and so much more. Regarding her work, Anji says, "If there is a need, I slip in, fill it, and get things done!"

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING US!

Thank you for supporting Glendale City Church. Your generosity helps keep our church open, welcoming, and thriving.

Maintaining a facility like ours is costly, so we're inviting you to partner with us by choosing a monthly giving level to help cover the maintenance of this beautiful church.

- **Gold Level:** (\$500+/per month): Supports major maintenance and repairs, janitorial service, and water or power bills.
- **Silver Level:** (\$250-\$499/per month): Covers gas bill, trash services, and technology needs such as our GCC website costs.
- **Bronze Level:** (\$25-\$249/per month): Helps with property taxes, phone service, copier lease, office supplies, internet and gardening costs.

Scan here to donate:
(choose your level and select "set up recurring donation")



Thank you for helping us keep our church vibrant,
welcoming, and running strong!

STAY CONNECTED

PREACHING SCHEDULE

December 20:
Uriel Herinirina

December 27:
Rebecca Barceló



**Download the GCC App to
see upcoming events & more!**



**Follow us on Facebook,
Instagram and YouTube!**

CHURCH OFFICE

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“REVEALING CHRIST, AFFIRMING ALL”
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